

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
**Heat & Frost Insulators
& Allied Workers**

International Headquarters

James A. Grogan, General President
James P. McCourt, General Secretary-Treasurer

9602 M L King Hwy
Lanham, MD 20706

Tel: 301-731-9101
Fax: 301-731-5058

Office of the General President

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FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

**Michigan House Bill No. 4601
“Limitation of Successor Asbestos-Related Liability”
Is Vehemently Opposed by the Asbestos Workers Union**

Our union, the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers (formerly known as the “Asbestos Workers” or “Pipe Coverers”) vehemently opposes Michigan House Bill 4601, commonly known as the “Limitation of Successor Asbestos-Related Liability Act.”

Once again Republicans and big business and their insurance companies want government in their lives when it helps their pocket books, but oppose government when it protects workers and their families.

Our members and members of numerous Michigan Building trade unions have been decimated by asbestos related disease caused by working at major industrial jobsites. Unfortunately, asbestos companies and their insurance companies hid the dangers of asbestos. They concealed research from the 1930s to the 1950s that showed asbestos exposure could cause death and cancer. Their asbestos product brochures as late as the 1970s showed workers being exposed without masks or respirators.

Thousands of Michigan workers and their families were needlessly exposed to deadly levels of asbestos dust.

Today nearly 3,000 Americans die each year from mesothelioma, an aggressively fatal cancer of the lungs and stomach lining, caused by exposure to asbestos. Thousands of other Americans die from asbestos induced lung cancer and asbestosis. It is not expected that this level of asbestos disease shall be decreased any time soon in the United States. Thousands of others die from asbestos exposure in other parts of the world. Some countries still mine asbestos and export it to poor and under-developed countries where another group of unsuspecting workers and their families are needlessly exposed.

Corporate Mergers

Corporations can grow through mergers or the purchase and selling of corporate assets. There is nothing wrong with growing big in a responsible way. When companies grow by buying and selling assets, some corporation is supposed to pay taxes on the sale.

To avoid paying taxes, corporate lawyers recommend growth by merger in many situations.

But when two companies choose to merge under existing Michigan law, the surviving company is liable for the predecessor corporation's liabilities and debts. That's equitable and fair.

Having chosen the method of acquiring a corporation... 'stuck is stuck', as they say.

With House Bill 4601, corporations want to change Michigan law and limit liability for corporations with present asbestos liabilities.

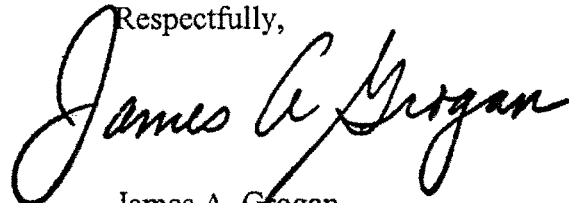
This is wrong and un-American.

Today, many of our wives and children are dying from asbestos induced mesothelioma - - just from being exposed to asbestos brought home on our clothes. The jobsites were contaminated with asbestos because asbestos companies didn't warn workers of the dangers.

Bail outs should not be given to companies who have merged with asbestos companies to the detriment of workers decimated by their exposure to asbestos. It is neither fair nor equitable.

Michigan House Bill 4601 should not be passed.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James A. Grogan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

James A. Grogan
General President

JAG:tzh